

DeMaster opts to sign with EMU

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By Tom Willard

Macomb Daily Sports Writer

A central member of Dakota High School's back-to-back football state championship teams will take his talent 70 miles west to a program looking to establish a winning tradition of its own.

Kyle DeMaster a 6-1, 200-pound wide receiver/defensive back, officially committed to play football at Eastern Michigan University on national signing day

scholarship offer to attend EMU in Ypsilanti, where he will reunite with older brother Dan, a starting offensive lineman for the Eagles.

"It means a lot, considering my brother goes there," DeMaster said. "I've been up there a lot to see his games, I've hung out with him on campus a couple times and met a lot of the guys I'll be playing with ... so it gave me a feel for what Eastern is all about. They're turning things around."

The Eagles went 4-8 in 2007, including a 48-45 win over Mid-American Conference foe Central Michigan University in the season finale.

DeMaster considered committing to Ball State University before deciding on EMU, which extended an offer to the Dakota standout early in the recruiting cycle.

"Eastern is a good fit for me," he said. "I think it's better for me. I get to be close to home and keep it in the family."

DeMaster scored 17 touchdowns last season for the Cougars, who went 14-0 and won a second consecutive Division 1

Football recruiting

NAME, SCHOOL	POS.	HGT.	WGT.	COLLEGE
Rick Abraham, Stevenson	OL	6-4	270	Grand Valley State
David Blackburn, De La Salle	DE/TE	6-3	245	Central Michigan
Erik Bradley, Lakeview	RB	6-0	215	Saginaw Valley State
Brent Brown, Romeo	RB/SS	5-10	180	Northwood
Mike Cuddeback, Stevenson	DB/LB	5-11	190	Grand Valley State
Kyle DeMaster, Dakota	WR/DB	6-1	200	Eastern Michigan
Jacob Doan, Dakota	OL/DL	6-3	285	Wayne State
Nate Hardy, New Haven	A	5-10	165	Eastern Michigan
Scott MacLeod, De La Salle	OL	6-9	293	Eastern Michigan
Charles Martin, Dakota	DL	6-2	255	Grand Valley State
Chris McDonald, Ford	OL/DL	6-4	270	Michigan State
John Orlando, Eisenhower	WR	6-0	175	Grand Valley State
Chad O'Shell, De La Salle	RB	5-11	190	Grand Valley State
Jack Raymond, Dakota	OL/DL	6-4	300	Saginaw Valley State
Ricky Shorkey, Chippewa Valley	LB	6-3	200	Grand Valley State
Erik Thompson, L'Anse Creuse North	RB	6-1	185	Grand Valley State
Nate Williams, New Haven	OL/DL	6-2	275	Indiana State

state title. EMU is looking at making him an outside linebacker but could also slot him at safety or wide receiver, he said.

Scott MacLeod, a 6-9, 293-pound offensive lineman at De La Salle, also signed a letter of intent with EMU. New Haven's Nate Hardy, meanwhile, signed a MAC letter of intent that establishes him as a preferred walk-on with the Eagles.

Three other Macomb County seniors signed letters of intent with D-I colleges on Wednesday. Chris McDonald, a 6-4, 270-pound lineman from Ford High School, is headed to Michigan State University, New Haven lineman Nate Williams (6-2, 275) com-

mitted to Indiana State and De La Salle defensive end/tight end David Blackburn (6-3, 245) signed with Central Michigan.

Among Division II programs, Grand Valley State University signed six county players including The Macomb Daily's 2007 Macomb County Player of the Year, L'Anse Creuse North running back Erik Thompson (6-1, 185).

"It looks like they want him as a running back-slot type offensive player," said LCN coach Joe Politowicz.

The Lakers also landed: Chippewa Valley linebacker Ricky Shorkey, De La Salle running back Chad O'Shell (5-11, 190), Ei-

senhower wide receiver John Orlando and Stevenson's Rick Abraham and Mike Cuddeback.

Saginaw Valley State landed Jack Raymond (OL/DL) of Dakota, and Erik Bradley of Lakeview. Wayne State landed Jacob Doan (OL/DL) of Dakota.

Brent Brown, a 5-10, 180-pound running back/strong safety, signed with Northwood University.

College Football

sity on national signing day Wednesday, the first day that high school seniors across the country could sign binding letters of intent with colleges.

In all, 17 prep standouts from Macomb County signed commitments with a total of seven Division I and II colleges.

DeMaster accepted a full-ride